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GAO's Staats Doubts Legality of Haig's Job

Associated Press

Rep. John E. Moss (D-Calif.) yesterday made public a letter from Comptroller General Elmer B. Staats indicating that

Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. is violating the law by holding a job as assistant to President Nixon, while still on active Army duty.

Haig joined the White House Staff in May as a replacement for H. R. Haldeman, who resigned. The White House announced on June 6 that the general would retire from active military duty effective Aug. 1.

Moss asked the Comptroller General for an opinion on

whether Haig was violating the law by holding two government positions at the same time.

Staats noted that the general was assuming many of the responsibilities that previously were Haldeman's, and that Haig still is receiving only his pay and allowances as a general and vice chief of staff.

While declining to say categorically whether Haig is "exercising the functions of a civil office," Staats said, "It now is our view that a violation of the statute is indicated."